

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4318

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2014

IMPORT OF ONION

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Suresh Shri Doddaalahalli Kempegowda

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to import onion in view of the rising prices and the widening demand-supply gap;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the farmer organisations have protested against the import of onion after the Government raised the Minimum Export Price of onion;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to effect any changes in the Export-Import policy of agricultural produce; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a)&(b) NAFED under Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation has floated a tender for import of about 50,000 metric ton of onions to augment supplies of the commodity during lean period in the country. Actual quantity to be imported by NAFED will depend upon the requirement of onions received from various State and Union Territory Governments and their concurrence to the rates received in the tender invited by NAFED. The data of import of onions for the last three years, including current year is as follows: IMPORT OF ONION (HS CODE 070310)

YEAR	QTY (MT)	VAL (RS LAKH)
2011-12	12.8	6.64
2012-13	450.0	30.30
2013-14	17,846.88	3,340.86
2014-15	NIL	NIL

(APR TO MAY)

Note: Figures for 2013-14 and 2014-15 (Apr to May) are provisional.

(c)&(d) No such information is available.

(e)&(f) The export policy on agricultural products is dynamic in nature and it depends on various factors, including availability of surplus over and above the requirement of buffer stock including strategic reserve, concerns of food security, diplomatic / humanitarian considerations, international demand and supply situation, quality standards in the importing countries, varieties traded and price competitiveness, need to balance between remunerative prices to the growers and availability of agricultural products to common man at affordable prices. The Government reviews the situation of availability of agricultural products in the country from time to time and takes a decision in view of the above factors.